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17-18 June 1963

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## MEMORANDUM FOR: THE RECORD

REFERENCES: Draft by Dr. E. Purcell dated 12 June 1963, of the Purcell Panel Report to the Director of Central Intelligence

1. A review of this draft points up the need to elaborate for clarification and interpretation purposes, from a NPIC position, on some statements contained therein.

a. Though NPIC recognizes that the M system now operating is indeed adequate to meet many intelligence requirements, it is nonetheless felt that improvements in resolution of this system will allow NPIC to answer a fairly significant number of requirements which are now beyond the capability of the system.

b. In January 1963 in a paper to the Director, NRO, from the Director, NPIC, it was stated that a reconnaissance surveillance system such as the proposed M<sub>2</sub> would represent a potentially significant gain in intelligence collection capability. It was further stated that there still existed an essential requirement to obtain a system which would get into the detailed technical intelligence field. It is still NPIC's contention that these two types of systems, surveillance and technical intelligence, have mutually exclusive design characteristics which preclude having both capabilities in the same camera system.

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2. Since January, it has been made known to NPIC that major improvements can be made to the present M system which will substantially improve its information acquisition capability. The major steps which need to be taken to effect this product improvement are:

- a. better V/H determination and IMC
- b. yaw detection and control
- c. exposure control
- d. automatic focus
- e. improved stabilization

The goal to be reached by making these improvements is that of achieving ten feet or better ground resolution over at least 90 percent of the image format of the M system photography.

3. NPIC strongly endorses the work being undertaken by the G system and the design goals of the VALLEY system as at least incremental and progressive steps toward the realization of technical intelligence satellite reconnaissance photography. If limitations of technical photographic developmental resources and concern for economies dictate the necessity for a choice between activities directed toward the improvement of surveillance and pursuit of improvements in technical intelligence reconnaissance, NPIC is led to the conclusion that the latter ~~should~~ prevail. However, if the situation should permit, NPIC also would encourage continued ~~surveillance reconnaissance photographic~~ improvements leading hopefully in the future toward significant gains in surveillance photographic reconnaissance.

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4. It should be noted at this point that the Purcell Panel Report recommendations not to utilize resources for improvement in surveillance resolution to five feet are not in consonance with the COMOR stated requirements for satellite reconnaissance photography for the years 1963-1968, which were prepared within the last two months.

5. With regard to the observation that full search coverage at high resolutions would produce a volume of information substantially exceeding the capability of our present resources for interpretation and exploitation, it should be noted that NPIC's planned capability has been designed for just such a situation and that we are approaching this capability at our predicted and scheduled rate. In the past, generally speaking, the only occasions upon which NPIC might have been somewhat less than fully prepared to accommodate photography, from either a volume, quality, or unique configuration standpoint, have resulted from insufficient lead time because of the lack of knowledge of details concerning the characteristics of the on-coming camera systems. This situation has been greatly improved and difficulties of this nature in the future are not anticipated.

6. In the Summary of Conclusions of the Purcell Panel Report, a question is raised concerning the organization and management appropriate to effect the exploitation of information from satellite photography. It is NPIC's interpretation of this question that it is directed primarily towards the NRO's participation in the management of such programs and not toward NPIC's future capability to accommodate intelligence in this form. NPIC's history shows a distinct pattern of readiness for the exploitation for

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new and unique material when permitted access to technical data concerning the collection system at the point in time that a decision is made to proceed with its development for operational purposes.

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Assistant for Plans and Development

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